(b) whether the Government have made any plan to re-introduce the import of raw cashew-nuts under the import canalisation scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Data showing import of raw cashewnuts and export of finished cashew products during 1995-96 is as under :-

Qty : Tonnes:
Value : Rs. in lakhs

Import

	Qty.	*Value*
Raw Cashew	2,18,019	74,918.09

Export

Finished Cashew Products	82,385	1,23,106.60

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(b) and (c). At present, there is no proposal to reintroduce the import of raw cashewnuts under canalising scheme, However, review of export and import policy is an on-going process and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary.

[Translation]

Coal India Limited

2600. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Coal India Limited per annum on Education;

(b) the policy of C.I.L. for incurring expenditure on Education;

(c) whether any misappropriation of funds allocated for education has come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from C.I.L. Rs.8.27 crores and Rs.9.35 crores for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively have been spent by C.I.L. and its subsidiaries on education.

(b) The policy of Coal India Limited for incurring expenditure on education is to the extent of financial grant-in-aid to the educational institutions located in coalfield areas.

(c) Coal India has no specific information regarding any misappropriation of funds allocated as grant-in-aid to educational institutions.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

[English]

Amendment in Indian Patent Act, 1970

2601. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications have been received from Multi-national Companies for product, patents in plarmaceuticals, food and agro-chemicals in anticipation of Faviouable change in the Indian Patent Act, 1970 in accordance with World Trade Organisations guidelines;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending and the dates of their pendency; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Patent Offices have received 893 patent applications in the field of drug or medicine from indian as well as foreign companies/institutions uptil July 15, 1996. The applications for patents will be taken up for examination after January 01, 2005, as per the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement which came into force on 1st January, 1995.

Merger of MTC with MMTC

2602. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mica Trading Corporation has been merged with Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited in terms of the revival package approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MITCO) started incurring losses from 1987-88, and was referred to BIFR which declared it sick on 23.4.93. On 8.4.96 BIFR passed an order for the merger of MITCO with MMTC. Details of the revival package include reduction in manpower, upgradation of technology, cost reduction, etc. Accordingly, in terms of the revival package approved by BIFR, MITCO has been merged with MMTC with effect from 2.5.96.

Misuse of Pass Book Scheme by Exporters

2603. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of misuse of Pass Book scheme by exporters detected during the last three years and the modus operandi adopted therein;

(b) the action taken in each of the cases; and

(c) the remedial action proposed to be taken to stop such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Pass Book Scheme, introduced vide para 54 of the Export and Import Policy, was notified vide Customs Notification No.104/95-Customs dated the 30th May, 1995, as amended. No instance of misuse of Pass Book Scheme has been reported by the Custom Houses so far.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Chemicals

2604. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials have busted international gang involved in smuggling of chemicals which is used in the production of heroin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty therein?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Customs Authorities at Indira Gandhi International Airport seized 874 Kgs. of Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical required for manufacture of heroin, on 27.05.96 while attempted to be smuggled out of the country. In the follow up investigation and raids 1241 Kgs. of Acetic Anhydride was recovered and seized. Investigations conducted in this regard did not reveal involvement of any international syndicate. Seven persons found involved in the case have been arrested.

Ganesh Sugar Mills

2605. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ganesh Sugar Mills in U.P. is lying closed for the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to handover the mill to private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to revive this mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The crushing activities of the Ganesh Sugar Mills have been stopped since 1994-95 season.

(b) to (d). The Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Company Ltd., which controls Ganesh Sugar Mills has been referred to the BIFR which has declared it to be a sick industrial company. As part of the revival/ rehabilitation package, the BIFR invited offers from the public for lease/sale/amalgamation of Ganesh Sugar Mills but no offers have been received. The BIFR has subsequently passed order for winding up of Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co. Ltd. There is no proposal with the Government for restarting or reviving the mills.

[English]

Import of Coal

2606. PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import 7 million tonnes of coking coal during 1996-97 to meet the demand of the power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated cost involved in foreign exchange;

(c) the extent to which the imports are likely to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coking coal; and

(d) the extent to which the power supply position in the country is likely to be improved by import of coking coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). As per information received from Ministry of Power, during the year 1996-97, there is a gap of 25 million tonnes of coal between the demand (215 million tonnes) and the agreed supply (190 million tonnes) of non-coking coal in the power sector. To bridge the gap, coastal States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat have been advised to import coal for use at their stations. So far only Tamil Nadu has imported coal and presently on import order of 2.5 million tonnes of coal is under execution.

(d) Depending on the quantum of Actual import of coal the generation of electricity would get augmented.

Machinery Purchased by BHEL

2607. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted an investigation into alleged foreign exchange violation in the purchase of second-hand machinery costing around Rs.20 crores by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Haridwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and particular of the officials involved therein; and

(c) the present status of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The CBI has registered a case